

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00
STR-07 STRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 SSC-01 AID-05 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /084 W
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R 312050Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6780
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

USMTN

PASS STR AND TREASURY ELECTRICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: STRD, MTN, GATT, EDC, EGEN
SUBJ: MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES AT THE FRENCH FOREIGN
TRADE MINISTR

1. SEVERAL IMPORTANT CHANGES ARE BEING MADE AT THE
DIRECTORATE FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS (D.R.E.E.)
OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL
FUNCTIONS OF THE DREE IS TO BACKSTOP THE FOREIGN
TRADE MINISTER, JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIAU. THE EXTENT TO
WHICH THE CHANGES COULD BE CONSIDERED A SHAKEUP
RATHER THAN NORMAL ROTATION OF SENIOR CAREER
OFFICERS IS UNCLEAR TO THE EMBASSY, BUT OUR GUESS
IS THAT IT IS A LITTLE OF BOTH. DENIAU IS ANXIOUS
TO PUT HIS PERSONAL IMPRINT ON THE STAFF. ON THE
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OTHER HAND, AT LEAST ONE CHANGE HAS BEEN IN THE
WORKS FOR SOME TIME.

2. DREE DIRECTOR BERTRAND LARRERA DE MOREL, WHO IS
WELL-KNOWN TO US OFFICIALS -- PARTICULARLY BECAUSE
OF HIS ROLE IN THE MTNS -- IS LEAVING IN A FEW
WEEKS TO BE REPLACED BY MICHEL FREYCHE. DE MOREL'S

NEW JOB HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED. FREYCHE HAS SERVED AS FINANCIAL ATTACHE AT THE EMBASSY IN LONDON SINCE NOVEMBER 1974. PRIOR TO THAT TIME HE HAD SERVED AS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU CONCENTRATING ON MINISTERIAL COORDINATION OF FRENCH POSITIONS AND, EARLIER, AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DREE. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS TOUGH, INTELLIGENT, AND AN ARTICULATE DEFENDER OF THE FRENCH POINT OF VIEW." (FOR EMBASSY LONDON: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT FREYCHE.)

3. PIERRE DUTET, WHO HAS SERVED AS PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC STAFF OFFICER AT THE ELYSEE, IS REPLACING CARRON DE LA CARRIERE AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DREE. CARRON DE LA CARRIERE CONCENTRATED ON BILATERAL ISSUES RATHER THAN ON THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. JUST HOW FREYCHE AND DUTET WILL DIVIDE THE CHORES IS NOT YET KNOWN. DUTET IS ALSO WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ON MTN AND RELATED MATTERS. (DUTET HAS BEEN REPLACED AT THE ELYSEE BY GUY DE PANAFIEU, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AT THE DREE.) DUTET TOLD US, INCIDENTALLY, THAT HIS RETURN TO THE DREE WAS AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE. HE HAD SIMPLY HAD ENOUGH OF ELYSEE STAFF WORK AND ASKED PRESIDENT GISCARD'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERMISSION TO BE RETURNED TO THE MINISTRY.

4. THE NEXT KEY OFFICIAL IN TERMS OF CONTACTS WITH THE US HAS BEEN JEAN-CLAUDE PREVEL WHO SERVED AS DE MOREL'S DE-FACTO DEPUTY FOR THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND AS A DEPUTY FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EEC ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER HE WILL CHANGE POSITIONS.

5. TRANSFER OF OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE OR ARE EXPECTED, INCLUDING SOME INTERNAL SWITCHES. WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE LAST SPRING, DENIAU BROUGHT IN A NEW DIRECTOR DE CABINET, BERTRAND SCHNEITER, WHO REPLACED PIERRE ACHARD. HARTMAN

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